

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

February, 1997

School ~ Church ~ Community

Issue One

Presidential Musings

Several years ago I attended a golf tournament sponsored by an alumni organization at my old Catholic High School. The after dinner speaker concluded his presentation with a quotation from an article by a Protestant minister. He stated that the marriage of the Catholic School/Church partnership has done more to improve the quality of life in American cities than any federal, state, or county agency. It was a pretty incredible statement especially considering its source, but the message was very simple: Organizations which are rooted in their communities are invariably more effective in understanding and responding to local needs.

And if the Catholic Church/School is an important social, as well as spiritual institution, then certainly it is organizations like the Men's Club that are the vehicles by which this work is accomplished.

The purpose of this newsletter is to tell you a little about what we do. In addition to the financial summary that is sent to men of the parish each year, it also includes detailed descriptions of our events and fund-raisers. We want you to understand how valuable your financial support is to our organization and to Nativity. We also want you to consider increasing your level of involvement in our activities. Unlike many other Parish organizations, there is no special selection process for participating in the Club. We've all heard about the three T's at Nativity. Well, our organization is big on "Time" and if you show up, you might just find yourself in charge.

Believe it or not, not everyone in this parish grew up in St. Paul and went to Nativity Grade School. My grandmother doesn't live up the block and my brother's house isn't two doors down from the rectory. More than the money we raise, or the donuts we serve, the value of our organization is the chance to meet, connect and develop the type of friendships which make this church and neighborhood the unique and special place that it is.

Dana Schnobrich
Men's Club President

Functions We Support

Dana Schnobrich

The back page of this newsletter provides a financial summary for 1995-96 fiscal year. The summary is divided into three sections: (1) Fundraisers, (2) Events and Activities, and (3) Donations and Wish List Items. In many respects the listed categories very clearly define our mission. We raise money to support our events and make contributions to the school for capital improvements and activities.



Donut Sunday, a welcome event after Mass

The last fiscal year, the Men's Club had the best year ever, raising more than \$40,000. We are hoping that 1996-97 will be even better.

Our major youth events include the Summer Sports Program, Kinderkamp, and the Altar Server Event. Adult activities include the Cribbage and Golf Tournaments, Sport Shirt Stag, and Softball Team sponsorship. The list is rounded out by our monthly Donut Sundays.

During the last fiscal year the Men's Club funded substantial improvements to the school's computer room. We assisted

Sport Shirt Stag

Mark your Calendars
Friday February 21, 1997
7:00PM

This years special guest:
Pat Reusse

Sports Columnist-Mpls Star Tribune

*Please join us for a evening of
Talk, Food, Cards, Laughter
and Comraderie*

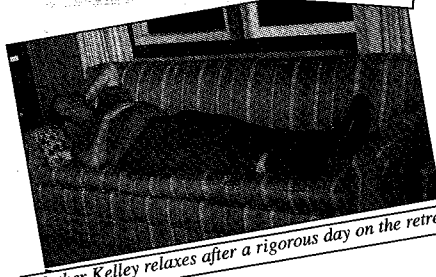
Sponsored by the Nativity Men's Club



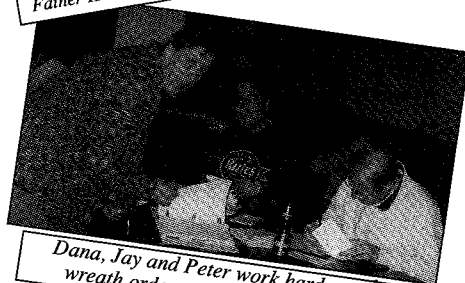
1996-97 Nativity Men's Club Board



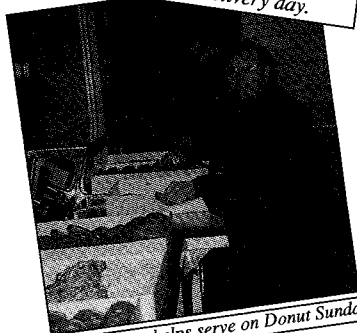
Men's Club members enjoy a great retreat.



Father Kelley relaxes after a rigorous day on the retreat



Dana, Jay and Peter work hard sorting wreath order cards for delivery day.



Father Kelley helps serve on Donut Sunday



The Christmas tree lot has become a meeting spot for friends and family

the athletic department in upgrading sports uniforms, purchased new software for the hot lunch program, and helped the Boy Scouts pay for a new camp trailer. As in previous years, we helped the Swim Team pay for pool time. Last year we assisted the school in purchasing a new intercom system and resurfacing the gym floor. The list of items purchased over the last ten years are as diverse as there are needs: A new kiln for the art room, athletic uniforms to outfit hundreds of teams, computers, playground equipment, kitchen improvements.

Finally, we believe that a Catholic school education should be available to all children of the parish. The Men's Club has been one of the Scholarship Fund's biggest, and most consistent supporters. Over the last 10 years, we have contributed over \$75,000 to the Scholarship Fund.

Donut Sunday "The Beginning"

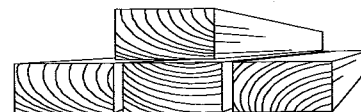
Dana Schnobrich

One Saturday a month, Jerry Tschida would rise early in the morning and head up to the Nativity cafeteria. "I usually didn't get home until midnight." Sunday morning he would be back in the cafeteria. "There would normally be a number of couples there with all the kids. Everybody pitched in." Donut Sunday was started in the early 1970's by former Men's Club President Tom Janssen and his wife Nancy. Originally donuts were purchased but the popularity of the event soon made this economically prohibitive and a donut machine was purchased. For the next 15 years the Janssens, Tschidas, McElroys, and a host of others made almost one million donuts. Fifty pound bags of batter were purchased and the donuts were decorated with various glazing's, sprinkle, and garnish. "It was a 48 hour event."

"We used to make about 600 dozen donuts for each event," according to Nancy. *That's right*, more than 7000 donuts!! "We really used to pack them in," says Tschida, "People would eat one or two and then buy a couple of dozen and take them home." After about eight years, the donut effort had produced a savings account of about \$60,000.

The reason for the disappearance of this event is the stuff of legends. The donut machine may have broken, sold, or it remains hidden some place in the bowels of the Nativity School. Donut Sundays

were resurrected as a regular monthly event by the Men's Club in 1995 and donut consumption has consistently increased to a current 110 dozen. If the event continues to increase in popularity the donut machine might be back. The big question is: Will the donut makers be back? "Never," says Jerry. "Not in a million years," adds Nancy.



"Inside the Board"

(Here, for the first time, is an inside look at the workings of the group that coordinates Men's Club activities year after year, revealing all the drama, politics, and conflict of the Board at work.)

Chair Schnobrich called the meeting to order. Father Kelley seconded the motion. He was reminded that no motion was on the floor. Maury Vitek began singing, "I Second That Emotion", an old Smokey Robinson & the Miracles hit, and was fined \$4 for disorderly conduct. Dal Riehle made a face and was lectured by the Chair on the seriousness of the matters at hand. Chair reviewed the Board by-laws with respect to use of inappropriate facial gestures. Dan promised not to do it again. A motion was made to give away a '92 Ford Escort at the 1997 Sport Shirt Stag. The motion was loudly shouted down and several board members swore. Chair cautioned against the use of bad language.

Beers were introduced and a short recess followed. The night wore on. Several minor issues were resolved, and the Cretin score was announced. Thuente asked what the difference was between a Scotch Pine and a White Pine. Dan Thees responded saying, "I don't know, but there is usually two sides to a story, and roughly twice as many rocks as trees in the world". Amid laughter and catcalls, Thuente sulked and said he didn't feel well. The discussion turned to the upcoming Men's Club Retreat and many past fishing and golfing adventures were recounted. Someone asked what to bring for bait.

The status of various home improvement projects were discussed and the janitor indicated that he wanted to go home. At that point, Chair Schnobrich adjourned the meeting.

(Men's Club Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, September through June. They are held in the Parish meeting room and begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to all of the men of the parish.)

"Roger Boland" Golf Classic

Dana Schnobrich

The "Black Tie Event of Golf", it is more than a mere tournament, more than just one of the majors. It is the game's annual ball with an aura all its own, regal yet gracious, paradoxically as homey as brats and sauerkraut. It is a gathering of golf's greats and near greats, their friends and their admirers. For many it is an observance, virtually a rite celebrated for its rich traditions, dignity, hospitality, and circuspect operation.

Roger Boland, a former Men's Club President and County Fair Chair started the tournament in the early 1970's with his wife and a number of other couples. He passed away several years later and the tournament was named in his honor. For some twenty years this event ran smoothly under the watchful care of the Lynches, Schwindels, Flynn's, Mountains, and Inserras. Three years ago the torch was passed and it is now overseen by Jim and Colleen Thuente, Dan and Mary Joan Murray, Tim and Cindy Bray, and Steve and Kathy Garvey.

The Boland is a mixed couples, best ball twosome event with a limit of four clubs per bag. While it is a mixed couples tournament, you are not required to play with your spouse.

The tournament is played at the Highland Nine Hole course and is followed by a great dinner and awards ceremony in Steiner Hall. This year the tournament will be held on June 22. If you are interested in playing don't delay because this event fills up fast.

Wreaths, Trees, & Raffle Tickets

Dana Schnobrich

While we continue to experiment with different fundraising ideas, three events continue to generate most of this money. The Christmas Wreath Sale, The

Christmas Tree Sale, and the Spring Raffle.

Like many Nativity events, the Christmas Wreath Sale has been going on forever and no one is sure when it started or who was in charge. This fundraiser is currently coordinated by Daryl Rongitsch and Tim Nelson, and it involves almost every element of the Nativity community. Total wreath sales this year will reach an all time high of approximately \$44,000.

In 1994, the Men's Club took responsibility for the Christmas Tree Sale, which had been previously operated as a fundraiser by the Choir. Since that time, tree sales have grown from 400 to about 600. Some of the increase resulted from a new program which was initiated last year with area Catholic schools. Every tree that is sold to members of other parishes, results in a five dollar donation to their school.

The Spring Raffle is the year's final big event as well as our oldest and biggest, fund-raiser. Dan Murray has overseen this event for many years and under his careful guidance it has consistently been our top money raiser. We would also like to recognize Steve Ivaniszyn and Coldwell Banker Jambor Realty for allowing the Men's Club to use their offices for the Raffle Telethon.

If you delivered wreaths to unknown locations in Lowertown, tied Christmas Trees on top of cars in sub-zero temperatures, or tried to sell Raffle Tickets over the phone to someone who thought you were from MCI, we would like to say, "THANKS". Without your help, these events would not be possible.

Special Men's Club Programs

Dan Murray

Summer Sports Program

The Men's Club started this program to enable student to participate in activities during the summer months. The program runs for six weeks, beginning the first week school is out, and ending in mid-July. Students meet in the Nativity Gym from 9am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday and there is always a wide range of activities. Gymnastics, Softball, Soccer, Basketball, Floor Hockey and Big Baseball are all played. Special events such as Scavenger Hunts, Bike Races, Frisbee Days and even field trips to Twins Games, Roller Skating and Mini-Golf give the program a nice twist.

The program's director is a state certified Physical Education teacher who along



Boland "Golf Classic"
Brings out the whole Ryan family.



Nativity Team II relaxes after a tough defeat.



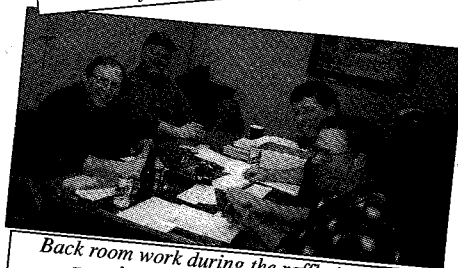
Father Kelley celebrates Mass at the annual retreat



The Men's club always like to include our families in events and social activities.



The Summer Sports Program provides activities for all ages and abilities.



Back room work during the raffle is quick paced during the week long event.

**NATIVITY MEN'S CLUB
1996-1997
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chaplin:	
Rev. John Kelley	698-0309
President:	
Dana Schnobrich	699-4557
Vice President:	
Darryl Rongitsch	698-6127
Secretary:	
Bill Richtman	690-4037
Treasurer:	
Bob Stupka	698-3496
Past President:	
Dan Thees	690-5773
Jay Amundson	698-4811
Pat Battel	698-9355
Paul Berrisford	698-7248
Bob Birk	698-6605
Dan Burns	690-4302
Steve Doughty	699-7768
Fenton Horwath	699-4903
Keith Meyers	646-3815
Bruce Midbon	698-4054
Brian Moser	699-2706
Dan Murray	690-4755
Tim Nelson	698-4129
Dan Riehle	699-3273
Peter Polga	690-3240
Mike Ryan	552-0358
Jim Thuent	690-2987
Tom Towle	690-5604
Maury Vitek	699-6754
Jay Yamashiro	686-7283

**Nativity Men's Club
1995 - 1996 Fiscal Year Summary**

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE \$750

FUNDRAISERS-NET OF EXPENSES

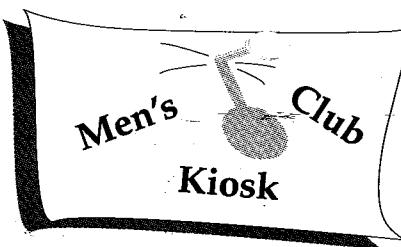
DUES	\$3,749
RAFFLE	\$14,341
WREATH SALE	\$12,436
TREE SALE	\$7,412
GRAND OLD DAYS	\$1,268
INTEREST INCOME	\$897
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$40,853

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND GIFTS

ADMINISTRATION	\$1,750
DONUT SUNDAYS	\$2,188
GOLF TOURNAMENT	\$1,193
SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAM	\$4,521
CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT	\$469
CHRISTMAS GIFTS	\$725
SPORT SHIRT STAG	\$1,252
MEN'S SOFTBALL	\$873
ALTER SERVER EVENT	\$390
KINDERKAMP	\$1,000
D.A.R.E. T SHIRTS	\$384
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,027
TOTAL	\$15,772

DONATIONS AND WISH LIST ITEMS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$2,675
JEFF RUSSELL FUND	\$1,000
ATHLETIC UNIFORMS	\$2,124
BOY SCOUTS	\$1,954
SCHOOL COMPUTERS	\$12,400
HOT LUNCH SOFTWARE	\$1,308
RISERS FOR AUDITORIUM	\$600
SWIM TEAM POOL TIME	\$700
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,320
TOTAL	\$24,081
TOTAL EXPENSES AND DONATIONS	\$39,853
ENDING YEAR CASH BALANCE	\$1,000



Pancake Breakfast

On February 2nd, the Men's Club will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast for the Nativity Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Scouts. It's all you can eat so bring your appetite.

Trip Cancelled

The 17th Annual Men's Club Safari to the Serengeti Plains has been cancelled! Kenyan National Park officials informed us last week that the unexpected start of the monsoon season has precipitated an early migration of game into protected areas of the park. Deposits will be returned to all individuals who had signed up for the trip. Look for the Serengeti trip announcement next fall.

Men's Softball

The Men's Club sponsor's three softball teams each summer in the Old Timers Church League. Games are played on Wednesday nights at one of the area playgrounds. Nativity's teams usually finish in the middle of the pack but they have the singular distinction of having the longest postgame parties. There are a limited number of openings on these teams. If you are interested in playing please call Dana Schnobrich at 699-4557.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

Provided below is a schedule of upcoming events for the remainder of the 1996-97 year. If you are interested in attending any of these events, either as a participant or an observer, please call any of the Board members listed on this page.

The more the merrier!

Cub and Boy Scout Breakfast	February 2
Board Meeting	February 13
Sport Shirt Stag	February 21
Cribbage Tournament	TBD
Donut Sunday	March 9
Board Meeting	March 13
Spring Raffle Telethon	March 9-13
Donut Sunday	April 6
Board Meeting	April 10
Donut Sunday	May 4
Board Meeting	May 8
Altar Server Event	June TBD
Board Meeting	June 12
Roger Boland Golf Tournament	June 22
Summer Sports Program	June 9 - July 18
Kindergarten Transition Program	June TBD

with some assistants run a safe, secure and fun filled six weeks.

KinderKamp

KinderKamp is a special summer program for incoming Kindergarten students to help get acquainted with Nativity. The two week session is run by the Nativity Kindergarten teachers and is a great opportunity for the children to see their classrooms and meet their teachers. During the session, the new students meet every other day for a couple of hours. The children have a great time playing with their new friends and also becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

The Nativity Men's Club pays the Kindergarten staff to run this program, and is free to all incoming students. We feel that students can make a positive transition to Kindergarten, already having been there and had some positive experiences in a non-threatening preparation program.

We want to thank you for your support of our Wreath Sale, Christmas Trees lot, Memberships and Raffle fund raisers, *your support makes it all possible.*

Men's Club News

Contributors:

Dana Schnobrich~

Writing ~ Editing

Dan Murray~

Writing~Editing~Photography

Tom Towle~

Design~Layout~Writing~Editing

Dan Thees~

*Relentless Criticism~Moral Support
Inane Comments~Beer*